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DIRKSEN RAPS PLAN FOR NEW CIA WATCHDOG

BY WILLARD EDWARDS

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Washington, May 20 — Sen.

Dirksen [R., Ill.], the minority leader, said today that foreign espionage operations by the United States would cease to be secret if Congress created a new watchdog committee to supervise the activities of the central intelligence agency.

Dirksen threw his support to Sen. Richard B. Russell [D., Ga.], chairman of the Senate armed services committee, who is vigorously opposing a move by Sen. Eugene McCarthy [D., Minn.] to set up a special nine-member committee to supervise the CIA.

Secrecy Is Essential

Dirksen aired his views in a radio report taped for delivery by Illinois stations. He spoke from a wheel chair in Walter Reed hospital where he has been confined since May 9, when he suffered a broken thigh bone in a fall from bed.

Secrecy is absolutely essential to CIA operations, Dirksen said. Under the present informal arrangement, three senior

members of the Senate appropriations committee and three senior members of the Senate armed services committee are briefed on CIA operations.

The McCarthy resolution would add three members of the Senate foreign relations committee, headed by Sen. J. W. Fulbright [D., Ark.] to this group. It was approved, 14 to 5, by the foreign relations committee but ran into floor opposition.

Calls Argument Poppycock

Russell labeled as "pure poppycock" the argument that the CIA has shaped foreign policy and that therefore the foreign relations committee should be informed of the agency's operations.

"I'm distressed that I couldn't be on the Senate floor to join Sen. Russell and try to put an end to this resolution,"

Dirksen said in the broadcast.

"If you're going to have a congressional panel or congressional committee to rake the CIA over the coals and to quiz them about their activities, their methods, and their targets, then it is no longer a secret."

Under Urging to Tell

Dirksen said senators, making speeches back home, were always being urged to tell "the secrets of Washington" and there was a human weakness to disclose such information.

Commenting on his own condition, Dirksen said he felt "quite all right." He is reported to be taking bar exercises to strengthen his arm muscles for the use of crutches. After surgery was performed May 10 on the fracture, it was announced he would be hospitalized for two or three weeks and then would be on crutches for several more weeks.

Except for President Johnson and a few Senate leaders, he has been permitted no visitors.